

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 121500Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8291

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 426

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: LOCAL TEMPERATURES ON RISE

REF: (A) ATHENS 1375; (B) ATHENS 1475

SUMMARY: GENERAL LOCAL JITTERS BOTH SIDES, AMIDST EVIDENCE GROWING GOGREECE ROLE IN EOKA-B AND MORE ASSERTIVE TURKISH LINE. INTRA-GREEK POLITICKING HEATS UP, ON LEFT/RIGHT LINES. MULTIPLE CAUSES FOR NERVOUSNESS ARE TOUGHER, BUT CONTRADICTIONARY GOGREECE HANDLING LOCAL ISSUES; REACTIONS TO CLERIDES' EFFORT FORM BORAD "NATIONALIST" COALITION; SPREADING AWARENESS THAT TALKS ARE COMING DOWN TO WIRE WITH LITTLE HOPE OF COMPROMISE. DESPITE SHRILLNESS OF MOOD, SO FAR ALL ELEMENTS BEHAVING, IF NOT TALKING, SENSIBLY. END SUMMARY.

1. BOTH COMMUNITIES DURING PAST WEEK HAVE SHOWN INCREASED JITTERS AND IRRITABILITY, REFLECTING IN PART NEW TENSIONS IN ATHENS/NICOSIA AND POSSIBLY ATHENS/ANKARA RELATIONS. FOLLOWING
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MESSAGE DISCUSSES SEVERAL, PARTIALLY INTERRELATED, ASPECTS

THIS DEVELOPMENT.

2. THERE WIDESPREAD FEELING THAT GOGREECE TAKING FIRMER LINE IN CYPRUS AFFAIRS WHILE FOLLOWING AMBIVALENT, CONTRADICTIONARY POLICY TOWARD GOCYPRUS. IN PARTICULAR, LEFTIST AND PRO-MAKARIOS PRESS HAS HAMMERED ON GOGREECE ROLE IN EOKA-B ACTIVITIES; EXFILTRATION OF KAROUSSOS (REF A); REPORTED INFILTRATION OF HIS SUCCESSOR; APPARENT SUPPORT (E.G. SERAPHEIM'S MESSAGE TO ANTHIMOS) FOR DEFROCKED BISHOPS WHO CONTINUE OFFICIATE AT RIGHT-WING OCCASIONS; AND APPARENT HIGH-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT IN WEAPONS THEFT FROM NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY. PRESS HAS ALSO HIGHLIGHTED REPORTS (OFFICIALLY DENIED BY PIO) RE RIGHTIST COUP PLOT, PRESUMABLY LED BY NEW HARDLINER WHO REPLACED KAROUSSOS IN EOKA-B COMMAND. WIDELY PUBLICIZED PRESENCE OF GOG REPS AT MARCH 3 GRIVAS MEMORIAL SERVICE IN LIMASSOL CONTINUES DRAW FIRE. ACCORDING GREEK EMBASSY, GOCYPRUS HAS TOLD AMB LAGACOS IT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED HE NOT RPT NOT ATTEND THAT SERVICE. TOUGH TONE OF FONMIN TETENES MARCH 9 STATEMENT (REF B) ADDED TO LOCAL CONCERNS AS DID MAINLAND GREEK PRESENCE AT MARCH 10 AFXENTIOU MEMORIAL, WHICH FEATURED STRONG ENOSIS RHETORIC WITHOUT, HOWEVER, OVERT ATTACKS ON MAKARIOS' REGIME THAT MARKED ESEA'S MARCH 3 EVENT. INDICATIVE OF LOCAL MOOD, TWO INDEPENDENT WEEKLIES MARCH 11 CALLED ON ATHENS ABANDON TWO-FACED POLICY RE CYPRUS AND ITS GOVT.

2. LOCAL TURK CONTACTS AND PRESS ALSO HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF ATHENS' INTENTIONS ON CYPRUS. REINFORCING NATURAL TURK SUSPICIONS ARE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED TURK EMBASSY DOUBTS RE VIABILITY PRESENT ATHENS REGIME. (WE SUSPECT THAT RECENT BROADER DETERIORATION GREEK/TURKISH RELATIONS OVER OFFSHORE DRILLING RIGHTS WILL REINFORCE THESE DOUBTS AND SUSPICIONS.) DENKTASH PRONOUNCEMENTS REMAIN HARDLINE; GREEK PRESS HAS HIGHLIGHTED RECENT REPORT (ON WHICH TURK CYPRIOTS HAVE NOT RPT NOT PUBLICLY COMMENTED) THAT QUOTES HIM AS SAYING GOG WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL IMPASS (REF B) AND THAT TURKEY WILL LAND TROOPS IF TALKS DEADLOCK. WE CANNOT RPT CANNOT VERIFY DENKTASH SAID EITHER; UNOFFICIAL (AND POSSIBLY CENSORED) TEXT GIVEN US BY HIS OFFICE SHARPLY QUESTIONS GOGREECE SINCERITY, BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT MENTION THREAT TO LAND TURKISH

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TROOPS.

3. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, POLITICKING WITHIN GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY HEATING UP ON LEFT/RIGHT LINES. CLERIDES AND HIS PAPER "AGON" WARN OF COMMUNIST THREAT AND URGE UNIFICATION OF DEVIDED "NATIONALIST" CAMP, WHILE COMMUNIST "HARAVGHI" AND LYSSARIDES' "TA NEA" COUNTERATTACK. CLERIDES PROBABLY TRYING TO HOLD MIDDLE GROUP TOGETHER FOR 1974 HOUSE ELECTIONS, PERHAPS

ALSO TO HEAD OFF RUMORED PLAN TO FORM RUMP PRO-MAKARIOS
PARTY OF CENTER/RIGHT. (EMBASSY WILL COMMENT FURTHER ON
INTRA-GREEK POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN LATER MESSAGE.)

4. INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS HAVE REACHED DICEY STATE, AS LEFTIST
PRESS REMAINS NEURALGICALLY SUSPICIOUS OF PERIODIC REPORTS
RE METROPOLITAN POWERS' "AGREEMENT" FOR SOLUTION. DESPITE
NUMEROUS REPORTS (FROM ATHENS) THAT EXPERTS HAD REACHED
"AGREED FORMULA" ON STATE CONTROL OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE
BODIES, ALL MARCH 12 PAPERS NOTED (AND DEKLERIS CONFIRMED TO
CHARGE) THAT EXPERTS HAD FAILED AGREE THIS FORMULA DUE "
"RESERVATION" FROM ALDIKACTI ON TWO POINTS. WE MAY BE
WITNESSING MAKARIOS-INSPIRED CAMPAIGN COUNTER ATHENS-FED PRESS
LINE RE PROSPECT THAT AGREEMENT OF SOME KIND IS AT HAND: TODAY'S
CBC AND PRO-GOVT "PHILELEFTHEROS" SLANT ON "FAILURE" OF EXPERTS
BRING TO MIND RECENT MAKARIOS INTERVIEW WITH "LE FIGARO"
DISCOUNTING PROSPECT THAT BROAD FORMULA WOULD BE FOUND.
(GOVT ORGANS, HOWEVER, ADD THAT TALKS WILL CONTINUE. DEKLERIS
EMPHATIC THIS REGARD, ADDING ONLY THAT ALDIKACTI'S
"RESERVATIONS" RAISE BASIC QUESTIONS FUTURE GOT POLICY TOWARD
TALKS.)

5. TEMPERATURES ON TURKISH SIDE HAVE RISEN FURTHER IN WIDE-
SPREAD REVULSION OVER LAST WEEK'S BRUTAL MURDER AND ROBBERY
OF TURK CYPRIOT BUTCHER FROM LIMASSOL. MOST GREEK PAPERS
CONDEMNED DEED; GOVT PROMPTLY ARRESTED THREE GREEK CYPRIOT
SUSPECTS. UNFORTUNATE TIMING OF MURDER ON EVE TENTH
ANNIVERSARY OUTBREAK PAPHOS FIGHTING RAISED ANEW LATENT
ANXIETIES ABOUT GREEK, WHILE TURK CYPR
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